THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI Dr. K. TARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) According to information available from Deptt. of Ocean Development, the scientists of Dr. Alm Post-Graduate Institute of Basic Medical Sciences, Madras, are studying the potential drug sources of marine plants for treatment of various diseases. The re-treatment of various diseases. The results of the study have not yet been made available for verifying the findings.

Recognition to traditional physicians

4418. SHRI SOM PAL:
DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH:

Will the Misister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the Times of India dated the 6th July, 1992 to the effect that a body of traditional physicians engaged in the cure of poisons cases have demanded cure of poisons cases have demanded recognition as approved medical practitioners;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether Government propose to have the practices and drugs studied and confirmed the effectiveness and capabilities thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Only, persons possessing a Recognised medical qualification included in the Indian Medicines Central Council Act, 1970 can be recognised as approved medical practitioners under one of the indigenous systems of medicines.

(c) The Indian Council of Medical Research had unertaken a study to evaluate the claims of one group of 'Vishachikitsa' (poison theroyp) specialists from Pappinisori. This study did not reveal any advantage of the traditional regimen in the rate of mortality/survival in patients of snake bite.

Drug for curing cerebral Malaria

4419. SHRI SOM PAL:
DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the Time of India dated 15th June, 1992 to the effect that a drug drawn from a plant grown in Kashmir has been found capable of curing cerebral malaria;

(b) whether the findings have been got confirmed by the Government; if not, whether Government intend to have it verified; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps are being taken to produce the medicine on requisite scale and for propagating and publicising it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Yes, Qinghaosu (Artemisia Annua), an old Chinese herbal preparation for the treatment of malaria, has been found very effective in the treatment of serious and complicated cases of malaria including the drug resistant malaria cases. In view of this fact Central Institute of Medical and Aromatic Plants, an Institute of Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), has grown this plant in Kashmir. Scientists at Central Drug Research Institute have been working to extract the active principle drug from this plant.

(b) So far this drug has been tested on monkeys, and in Phase-I on 30 healthy human volunteers with good result.

(c) This drug has yet to undergo trials in hospitals and complete Phase-III trials in patients before the proposal is submitted to the Drug Controller of India for clearance and for marketing. This process may take three to four years.